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26 March 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 26 March 1980

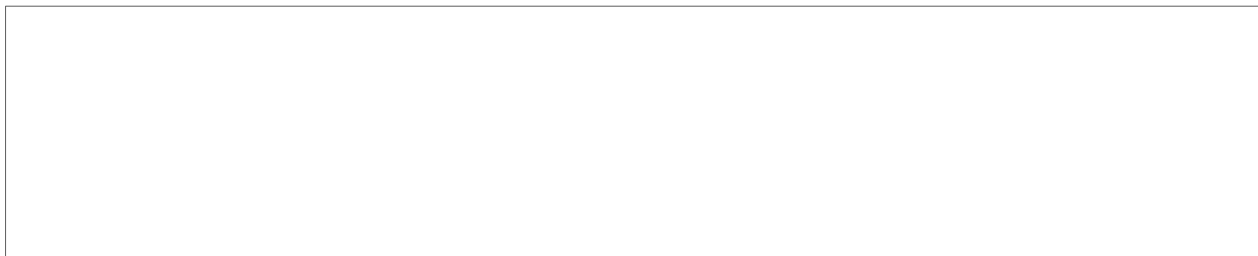
Mr. Carlucci chaired the meeting. []

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Lehman reported he is keeping a close eye on the Somali-Ethiopian situation, particularly the implication of Ethiopia's recent raids on Somalia. He noted, however, that an Alert Memorandum is not warranted at this time. []

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Hetu said [] will arrive today with his ACLU lawyer to discuss the Publication Review Board's completed examination of [] book manuscript. Hetu said the Board is requesting some 400 manuscript changes/deletions--each has been given a thorough test. He added [] lawyer will be asked to sign a modified secrecy agreement before viewing the material. []

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Hetu reported columnist Jack Anderson's assistant, Dale Van Atta, has sent a letter to [] (OSR branch chief who is also managing the Afghanistan Task Force) asking that if [] should ever become disaffected, Van Atta would help to publicize. Hetu said the letter is now with the Office of Security. Clarke said he is not aware of any reason why [] was approached by Van Atta. Silver added that it is Van Atta's style to solicit disaffection around town. Clarke called attention to Anderson's column "A New Chinese ICBM Capability" (attached) in today's Washington Post suggesting Van Atta as the source. A brief discussion followed including concern for Anderson's and his associates' continued possession of classified documents and that we now know how they were acquired. Despite this, Hitz and Silver emphasized that our effort to get DOJ and the FBI to recover the documents has met only inertia. Noting that he will be lunching next week with Deputy Attorney General Renfrew, Mr. Carlucci asked Silver to provide pertinent information including Van Atta's letter to [] for the luncheon. [] (Action: OGC)

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Clarke reported the first edition of the new PDB was sent to the White House today, noting its emphasis on today's news today--inputs as late as 0400 hours. He expressed particular appreciation to McMahon for DO's excellent support in this effort. []

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Hitz reported the HAC Subcommittee hearing yesterday on CIA Special Activities went well and noted incidentally that Chuck Snodgrass' nomination hearing for appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force has been put off for at least another week. Mr. Carlucci remarked that he found himself under less fire at this hearing than INR's David Mark--Mark was asked pointed questions on our Embassy in Tehran and on defining U.S. foreign policy. Mr. Carlucci noted Representative Chappell was openly supportive of CA and that none of the members were hostile. [redacted]

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[redacted]

Dirks reported today's scheduled appearance of the NRO before the SSCI has been cancelled due to Senator Inouye's illness. He said also the SSCI Blue Ribbon Consultant Committee (Duckett, [redacted] et al.,) had convened recently, and asked if anyone knew anything of the session's content or outcome. Hitz said he will check it out. Clarke added that such information would be useful to him when he lunches with these consultants in the near future. [redacted]

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[redacted]

Attachment

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THE WASHINGTON POST

Wednesday, March 26, 1980

B13

JACK ANDERSON

A New Chinese ICBM Capability

China has developed an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of hitting targets in the United States.

This alarming news means that a second communist power now has the ability to threaten America with nuclear devastation. Until now, U.S. defense policy has been based on the assumption that only the Soviet Union posed such a clear and present danger to the United States.

The reason this has not been reported before is that "official government sources" have consistently played down any suggestion that the People's Republic of China was a direct nuclear threat to this country. They have emphasized instead the bitter rivalry between the two communist superpowers, and cite our supposedly firm "friendship" with China.

But Asian experts in and out of the government caution that this friendly relationship is a tenuous thing at best, likely to evaporate at any time over issues like Korea or Taiwan, or simply because of the ideological differences that separate our two countries. They note that our strongest bond is mutual hostility toward the Soviets, and warn that the Chinese still regard the United States as their chief antagonist after the Soviets.

From top secret documents and other intelligence sources, my associate Dale Van Atta has pieced together the story of China's arrival at a position from which it can back up any future change of policy with nuclear ICBMs.

The huge Chinese missile is designated the CSS-X-4, and it has a range of 7,600 miles, more than enough to devastate U.S. population centers from

bases on the mainland of China. The only other long-range missile the Chinese were known to have was the CSS-X-3, with a range of 3,600 miles—enough to hit Moscow, but nowhere near enough to make it to the U.S. mainland.

When Defense Secretary Harold Brown went to China in January, the "friendly" Chinese government didn't let him see the CSS-X-4. But he knew about it—and almost revealed that knowledge to reporters who accompanied him on the trip.

Asked if China was "anywhere near acquiring" an ICBM, Brown replied: "China's been developing ballistic missiles of increasing range, and I am sure they are working on intercontinental ones. In fact, I know they are. I don't want to say precisely how far they've gotten."

I can say how far they've gotten. The Chinese have been working on the CSS-X-4 for more than a decade. Its potential as an ICBM has been partly obscured by its dual role as a booster for space satellites.

In July 1975 when the Chinese successfully launched a satellite into orbit, a CIA "Top Secret Umbra" report called the shot "a significant step forward for the Chinese missile and space program," and added:

"The success with the CSS-X-4 suggests the Chinese have corrected major problems they have been having with this missile. . . . The CSS-X-4, a large, two-stage missile, is China's only missile with true intercontinental range, and it is clearly the key to a Chinese ICBM force. It is not, however, expected to become operational as an ICBM for several years."

"The CSS-X-4 will probably be able to carry a thermonuclear warhead about 7,000 miles or place a missile weighing approximately 5,000 pounds into a low earth orbit."

That was five years ago. In 1978, another top-secret CIA document warned that the CSS-X-4 "will soon be capable of hitting targets in the continental United States."

Draft Evasion—President Carter is resuscitating the old Nixonian cover of "executive privilege" and adding a peculiar new twist: ineptitude.

When Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) heard that a Selective Service report existed contradicting the president's claim that draft registration was needed, she asked the White House for a copy. Sorry, the Carter people said; the report had been lost.

Outraged, she filed a Freedom of Information Act request for all documents relating to Carter's controversial draft-registration decision. More than a month later, Schroeder was told that White House lawyers had completed their review of the documents, and that she could drop by for a look—at some of them. The rest were being withheld because of "the sensitive and confidential advice" they contained.

Meanwhile, the "lost" Selective Service report turned up: It had been leaked to Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.). Schroeder staffers told my reporter Scott Benarde they think the White House deleted facts that showed Carter's draft registration wasn't needed. Senate staffers figured the attempt to hide the report was simply an administration attempt to "cover up another embarrassment."